



IPPS Australia 2017

Report back from the 45th Annual Conference in Perth under the Theme “Propagating for health, wealth & good times”



By Ziniko Mkiva

Executive Summary



In 2015 I was privilege to work under well experience curator Martin Smith and well experience Horticulturist Sivuyile Kweleta at Stellenbosch University Botanical Gardens. During my time at Stellenbosch I worked on wide variety of essential tasks ranging from helping with the removal of invasive weed, Landscaping, basic Construction and maintenance, Installation of irrigation system, doing propagation work, maintenance of collection and supervising and assisting the public in Botanical garden.

Last year (2016) I worked at Elands Wholesale nursery from June to December as a Student horticulturist completing my final practical studies. During my time at Elands I worked with labour force implementing the new order processing system (Supervising well pulling and loading the orders, logistics and quality control, Supervising staff and do administration work) and I also assisted in creating, implementing and fine tuning a new supervisor position that they wanted to create to help the farm manager. I was also privilege to work for a well establish business, Organisation that improves every day, every hour. During this period at Elands I was lucky enough to be nominated to IPPS (International Plant Propagators Society). IPPS has the student exchange programme with Australia and I was chosen to be one of the hard working, enthusiastic, willing to learn, self-thought students that have to deliver the presentation to IPPS Conference that was held in Limpopo. I never thought someone like me will ever going to Australia, so I had to give best presentation in order for me to be voted to the candidate that will present the southern region in Australia. With the positive thoughts, positive attitude, I humbled myself in front of IPPS members and give out all I have and I was honoured to be voted to be the candidate that will be representing the Southern region to Australia.

The reason why I wanted to go to Australia was to advance my career and to exchange considerable knowledge by applying the knowledge in both direction to Australia to South Africa and also to learn about other floras.

My personal hopes to gain from this International exposure were to gain professionalism which will keep my career going, to gain business skills and strategies and also to gain knowledge from all latest method being used in horticulture and gain more hands on experience. The aims and the hopes were achieved and I have gain more than that.

The journey and the Experience

The 3rd May 2017 was the day I was waiting for. It was like a dream come true. I was so nervous but happy at the same time because it was even my first time going out of the country. I travelled via Dubai for 22 hours to Perth and received a warm welcome from David Hancock and His Wife Jan Hancock. I was Accommodated by David and his wife for 3 days and 3days with Bree (2017 Australia exchange) before the pre-conference tour.



David and His Wife



Bree during the tour

Hands on experience

One of my hands on experience in Australia was at Plantrite Wholesale Nursery where they grow the plant, maintain it and sell it into different clients. The great majority of the plants here are propagated from seeds but many from cuttings. Plantrite is more mechanised I was lucky to operate the machines and work close with well experienced labour's.



Cleaning plants in dispatch area



Flex planter



Transplanting



Transporting native plants to a block

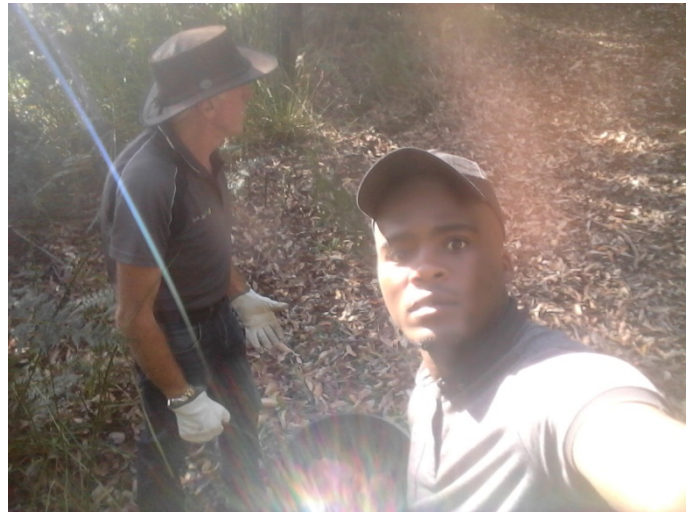


Seed Collection

I spent a day in one of the mountain in Perth collecting seeds of native plants e.g *Lepidosperma gladiatum*, *Tetraquatrum*. And I also worked at Natural area management service working close with managers and labour force and also working with machines.



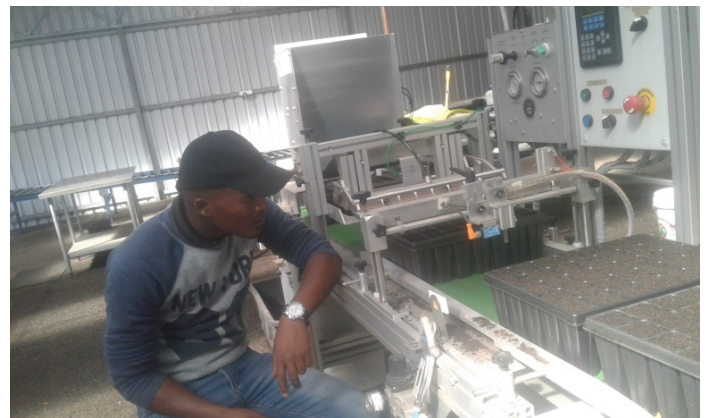
Seed collecting



Seed collecting



Propagating



Working with auto Seder



Weeding



Packing seed trays

Pre conference tour (North of Perth to Green Head)

The most important thing about IPPS is to interact and networking with other people; I met other international IPPS members from New Zealand. As collectively we travelled from Perth to Lancelin up to green head north to visit some interesting places and other horticultural institutions. Our first stop was AQWA aquarium seeing the tropical fish and coral. Travelling on, we soon realised it was for us to gain an appreciation of Coral Coast, both in terms of the lobster industry but mostly importantly the sand dune environment that vegetation grows in. as we travel along coast vegetation changed from shrubland with plenty of *Banksia prionotes* to semi desert health with *Xanthorrea*. We also visited Numbung national Park to visit the Pinnacles desert, and the Lobster fishery. Then on our accommodation we had a privilege to walk around dynamic Bay of Green Head. Then we travel back to Perth but this time we travelled inland where we visited Lesueur National Park then we headed to Hi Valle Farm where we saw most Australia native plants. From Lesueur Nation Park, our final stop was at Muchea Tree farm where I was impressed by wide range of Australia native plants and South Africa Proteacea family *Lecosperma*, *Proteas* etc.



In side AQWA aquarium



Lobster fishery



Desert



Around Green Head



Entrance at Hi Vallee farm



Talk at Hi Vallee farm



Australian native plants at Muchea farm



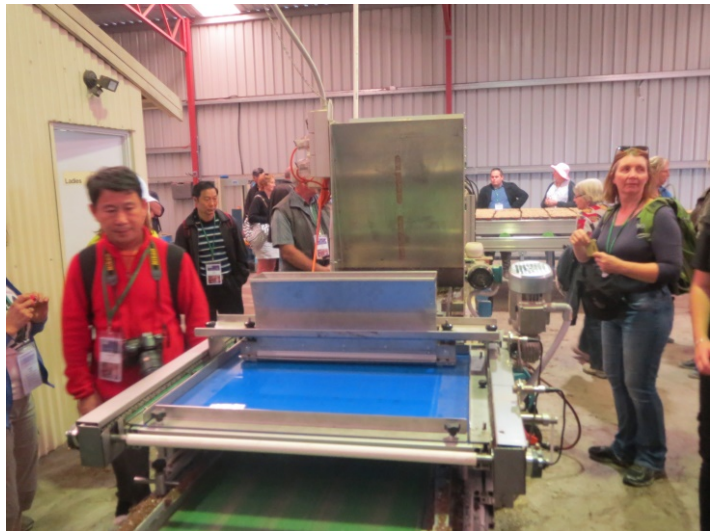
Cut flower mixed with SA plants

IPPS Conference at Hilton Hotel

The conference was held in one of the most beautiful hotel in Perth Hilton Hotel where it was open by IPPS Australia president John Messina welcoming all members and Internationals, we also pay a tribute to the late IPPS president Steve vallance. And all the guest speakers gave us good presentations under the theme "Propagating for health, wealth & good times". We also visited most impressive horticultural industry. As listed Landsdale Plants, Landsdale Farm and Wildflower Nursery, Ezi-Gro Ochids, Lynch Group, Plantrite nursery, Ellenby Tree farm, Margaret River chocolate Factory, Natural Area nursery, Workpower wholesale Nursery, Kings Park Botanical garden.

Pictures





Written by

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Message for young horticulturist

Communication, responsibility, knowledge and motivation are the factors that help or assist on achieving prior goals set. Going to Australia was great experience and was like a dream came true, and I would encourage young horticulturist to work hard and join the society that “Seek and Share”. This is a life time opportunity that one can grab it with both hands and make use of it. To all South African Horticultural institutions from Botanical gardens to retails please bear with students because most of students that do horticulture don’t know what horticulture entail.

Thank you IPPS Members. My special thanks to the Elands Team and Judy.